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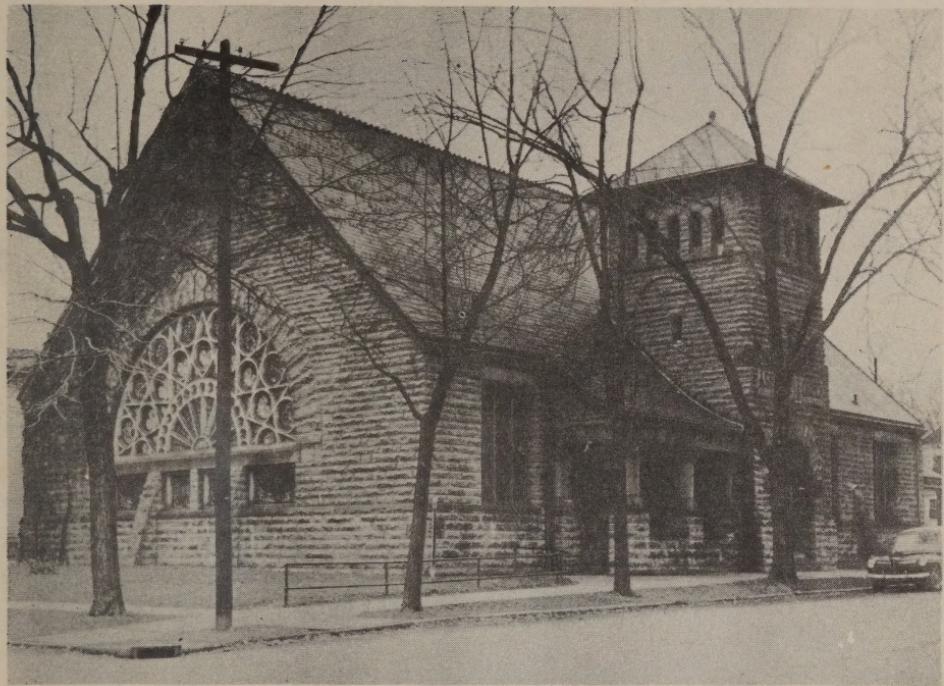
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Murphy, Cora.
A history of Asbury
Methodist Church, Delaware...





ASBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Delaware, Ohio

1888 -- 1953

A History of
ASBURY METHODIST CHURCH
Delaware, Ohio

IN MEMORY
of
MARY ALICE NELSON
who began the compiling of this history

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The following ministers have served Asbury Methodist Church:

Rev. L. M. Albright	1886-88
Rev. E. D. Whitlock	1889-91
Rev. R. Wallace	1892-93
Rev. M. M. Figley	1894-96
Rev. A. D. Knapp	1897-99
Rev. C. Telford Erickson	1900-01
Rev. F. I. Johnson	1902-06
Rev. W. Arter Wright	1907-11
Rev. S. K. Mahon	1912-16
Rev. E. W. Morton	1917-18
Rev. E. A. Miller	1919-20
Rev. H. W. Courtney	1921-23
Rev. W. E. W. Sellars	1924-26
Rev. Otto Scott Steele	1927-30
Rev. Stanley Mullen	1931-36
Rev. J. R. Cheney	1936-37
Rev. Arthur Hoverland	1938-39
Rev. Ralph T. Alton	1939-45
Rev. Harold Williams	1945-47
Rev. Glen M. Warner	1948-53
Rev. T. L. Cromwell	1953-

* * * * *

This history of Asbury Church has been compiled by Miss Cora Murphy and published through the courtesy of Myron Dixon. All proceeds from its sale are to be used for the retirement of the loan on the new building.

In The Beginning

"Thus it has been that, desperate, at length,
With riddle still unsolved, and failing strength,
Men have sought God, and found that from the start
He is the homeland of the heart."

God is the homeland of the heart, and as a tangible expression of this home, men erect churches. No man need be lonely or homeless so long as a light shines out upon his path from the open doors of a church. Within its sanctuary he will find the care of a Father, the companionship of brothers and sisters, and a common cause.

A writer in the year 1888 described Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church in Delaware, Ohio, as a "child of Providence". Perhaps this was because the birth of Asbury was the result, not of disunion, but of natural growth, and all the circumstances surrounding its organization were promising.

In 1886, the members of William Street Methodist Episcopal Church decided that they must have a new church building. Everyone had been agreed for several years that this was going to be necessary, but some of the members wanted to keep the old site and others thought that they should move farther north. The town was growing north, yet all the churches except one were located south of Winter Street. It really seemed as though a new church society would be justified. The matter of remodelling or of erecting a new building, and the question of various locations had been brought up from time to time in the Quarterly Conferences of the William Street Charge.

In 1885 the Quarterly Conference decided to take a vote of the membership on three points: first, new edifice; second, location, old or new; third, a division of the church. About two-thirds of the membership voted, with this result: they were practically unanimous in their desire for a new church and about evenly divided as to the new location, but only one in five favored division, which spoke well for their spirit of brotherhood.

However, on February 25, 1886, the Quarterly Conference, by a formal vote, decided that a division of the church membership for the organization of a new society in the northern part of the city would best suit the needs of a growing community. The Pastor, the Reverend W. G. Waters, was authorized to ascertain how many would be willing to withdraw for that purpose and to report to the Conference. A few weeks later, he reported the names of forty families who would be willing to pioneer for the new enterprise, and with the approval of the Conference, the organization of the new society was authorized.

The first meeting was held on the evening of May 28, 1886. What an inspiration it would be if we could only go back across the years for a moment and sit with that group of earnest workers, the real founders of Asbury Church. Other meetings followed at short intervals, committees were named, went into action, and gave their reports, until on the evening of July 19, 1886, the organization was formally made in the election of trustees.

Two available sites for the new church were found and reported at a large and enthusiastic meeting of the new organization. One was the east side of Franklin Street, 300 feet north of Lincoln Avenue. The other one, known as the Grove lot, on the corner of Lincoln and Franklin, was finally chosen. Fifteen hundred dollars in cash was paid to Mr. Grove, plus three notes of one thousand dollars each, payable in one, two, and three years, making the total cost of the lot alone forty-five hundred dollars.

At a meeting on July 26, the name of Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, Delaware, Ohio, was duly recognized, and the Reverend L. M. Albright was appointed to be the pastor.

The new pastor found an eager membership of ninety-five waiting for him, all of whom had been transferred from William Street Methodist Episcopal Church. He also found an organized Board of Stewards and a Sunday School organization of twenty-five officers and teachers.

The Trustees had made arrangements with the First Baptist Church for the use of their building on Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings, and, on Sunday, September 19, 1886, at 2:00 p. m., the first sermon was preached from the text John 12: 31-32, and the first session of the Sunday School was held.

The special holiday number of the Asbury Journal, looking back on this time, expressed its thanks: "The kindness of the Baptist Society in proffering the use of their beautiful church was highly appreciated. 'Blest be the tie that binds'."

At the first service three joined by letter and one on probation. Following this service, at 3:30 p. m., the first session of the Sunday School was held with a total attendance of 186 and a missionary collection of \$3.64.

In the meantime work was progressing on a new church home. It had been decided to build a temporary frame structure on the west end of the new lot. According to report, it consisted of a main

room 36' x 48', with a projection on the west side for the organ, a larger one on the east opening into the main room. On the fifth day of October the ground was broken, and on the third of November the building was finished and ready for occupancy. It was formally opened on the following Sunday. According to the Asbury Journal: "Our temporary structure seats comfortably 300 people with backs, and 100 without." (At least the latter did not dare to be backsliders.) The cost of this temporary building was \$1,400.

On October 19, 1886, the first church social was held at the home of Professor E. T. Nelson.

The temporary building was only a stepping stone to greater things. In June, 1887, a committee was appointed to consult with an architect in Columbus, Ohio and present plans for a permanent church at a cost not to exceed twelve thousand dollars. The plans had to be changed many times to comply with the price and the wishes of the congregation. It was feared for a time that their dream of a stone building would have to be satisfied by brick, but several of the members increased their contributions until the required sum of \$16,790.00 was pledged.

On March 1, 1888, the contract for the new building was signed, with Mr. Wellington Long as contractor and Mr. J. W. Yost as the architect. Mr. Long agreed to do all the work except in the main auditorium, which required carving and other details of finishing for which he did not have sufficient skill.

On June 13, 1888, the cornerstone was laid with appropriate ceremonies. The Reverend H. A. Butts, D. D., President of Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, New Jersey, delivered the sermon. The Reverend L. D. McCabe presented the cornerstone, which was laid by Dr. Butts. The congregation sang with all their hearts-

"On this stone now laid with prayer
Let Thy Church rise strong and fair;
Ever, Lord, Thy Name be known,
When we lay this corner stone."

To the history of the building which was deposited in the cornerstone, the following dedication was added:

"May this continue to be a gathering place for God's children and the dwelling place of the Most High long after the lips that now join in its worship shall be silent in the tomb; long after the bodies whose energies and activities are now drawn out in this work shall 'sleep the sleep of death'; and long after the hearts that now throb

and pray for the success of 'Asbury' shall cease to beat their 'funeral marches to the grave'.

"And when the trumpet of the Resurrection morn shall summon the 'quick and the dead', then may those who have found the Savior within these walls; those who have been cheered, comforted, strengthened, and led into a better and higher life, through the ministrations of God's ambassadors around these shrines; those who have partaken of the Holy Communion around the consecrated altar; and those who have in their turn borne the burden and heat of the day in the maintenance of all things pertaining to this Sanctuary, may all these, with all of God's chosen people, be gathered from the East and from the West, the North and the South, and 'the islands of the sea' into the New Jerusalem and the temple 'not made with hands, eternal in the heavens' and there unite in saying, 'Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God the Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever.' Amen.

Late in the autumn the building was under cover and enclosed. Early in the spring of 1889 the contract was let for finishing the lecture room and Sunday School department. This was completed in the following August and this portion of the building was formally opened with Sunday School in the morning, followed by preaching by the Reverend L. D. McCabe, D. D. A platform Sunday School meeting was held in the afternoon, and the exercises of this first Sunday in the new building were closed with the celebration of the Lord's Supper in the evening.

During the following autumn and winter, plans for the finishing of the auditorium were considered and adopted. Additional Subscriptions were obtained for this purpose. An organ association was formed, and early in the spring the contract was made for finishing the auditorium and for the construction of the organ.

The Woman's Association of the church was almost entirely responsible for the furnishing of the new church, and in this connection, the pulpit deserves more than passing notice. It and the table were made of solid cherry and the carving thereon was done by Mrs. Richard Parsons, who bore the entire expense of material and manufacture, and presented them to the church. Also, the beautiful Cathedral style window which adorns the east side of the auditorium was a gift from Mrs. V. T. Hills and her sister, Mrs. Anna S. Clason.

The entire building in every respect was a great addition to our city and its erection and completion reflect great credit to all

who in any way were connected with the enterprise. The final cost of the building and furnishings amounted to \$37,000.00.

The organ was completed under the supervision of Mr. E. T. O'Kane who was the organist for many years. The Inaugural Recital was given on the evening of November 11, 1890, by Mr. Clarence Eddy, Concert Organist of Chicago, assisted by Miss Gertrude Smith, Soprano.

On November 16, 1890, Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church had its Dedication Service. This had been the day long looked and worked for, when Asbury, like a "beautiful city set on a hill was to throw open her gates in glad welcome to all." It was at the eleven o'clock service, before an immense audience gathered for the occasion, that the dedicatory seal was reverently placed upon this beautiful church set apart for the worship of Almighty God in Delaware. The sermon was given by the Reverend Charles N. Simms, D. D., Chancellor of Syracuse University.

The Missionaries Societies

On October 8, 1886, at the home of Mrs. A. Sanborn, with twenty-four charter members, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was organized. One of these members was Miss Isabella Thoburn of India, who was the first woman missionary to that country. She and her brother, Bishop James Thoburn, spent some of their furloughs in Delaware at the home of their sister, Mrs. Mary Cratty, and while there attended Asbury Church and thus by their presence and participation gave to the societies missionary impetus and interest in the work in the foreign fields. As a result, the newly organized society pledged a scholarship to the school in India. Delaware has been the home and furlough station of many missionaries from many countries, and, as time went on, scholarships to schools in India, China, Japan, and Chile were given because of the influence of these missionaries. Moreover, Ohio Wesleyan has given scholarship aid to the children of missionaries who have attended college here.

Later the Young Woman's Society was organized. Among the names of its members are those of women who worked in the church, taught in the Sunday School, the public schools, and the University. Miss Mabel Cratty became the high school principal in Delaware, and National President of the Young Woman's Christian Association. In one year special gifts from these societies totaled \$700.00.

The records of the Woman's Home Missionary Society give less information about its work, but we know the Asbury Society was organized in 1893, and took over the work within the United States where the Methodist Church was obligated. Often the societies met on the same day and took turns as to the hours of meetings. They tried all-day meetings with lunch at noon, and afternoon meetings. Also, when they wearied of giving dinners, they obtained money by means of dues. They usually raised money by the "sweat of their brows" but they raised it!

Asbury has always been known as a missionary church, not only because of its benevolent giving, but because of the number of its people who have gone out as missionaries. The following is a list of these missionaries:

To South America: Foster Stockwell, Vera Louden Stockwell, Jennie Reed, Helen Gilliland, Sadie Gilliland, Sarah Cantwell.

To Japan: Masa Powers, T. T. Brumbaugh

To Korea: William Shaw, Adeline Shaw, William H. Shaw

To Mexico: W. W. Davis

To Africa: Gladys Worley Parker, Fred Keller

To Burma: Roxy Melleinger, Karis Brewster Manton

To Albania: C. Telford Erickson

To India: W. W. Rockey, Lewis Linzell, Wilfred W. Scott, Brenton T. Badley (Bishop), T. C. Badley, Clara Nelson Badley, Margaret Carver Ernsburger, Nora Waugh, Lois Buck, Oscar Buck, Caroline Buck Wilkie, John Hollister, Elsie Simester Gardner, Edna Abbott, J. J. Kingham, Esther West, Mildred Stewart Aldrich, Herschel Aldrich, Grace King, Lois Rockey, Dr. William Mansell, Hettie Mansell, Murray Titus, Bess Creed, Titus Lowe (Bishop) George Gardner

To China: Julia Bonnifield (the first), Florence Plumb, Mildred Worley Ward, Ralph Ward (Bishop), Harry Worley, Walter Lacy, Helen Murdock Lacy, Henry Lacy, Carlton Lacy (Bishop) Molly Lacy, George Hollister, Mary Brewster Hollister, Frank Cartwright, Hester Cartwright Vandenburg, Marion Manley, M. D. Gracie Manley, Bliss Wiant, Mildred Artz Wiant, Helen Galleher, Mary Catherine Geyer, Fern Sinkey, Edith McBee, Olin Stockwell.

Members of the Woman's Association had belonged to the William Street Church organization and had helped raise the funds which that group held when the Asbury group moved to another church. After much discussion it was decided to divide equally the money held by the treasurer of the William Street group. About \$2,400.00 was Asbury's share, and the ladies saved it to furnish the new church when it should be finished. The purpose of the organization was to promote the material and the spiritual welfare of the church. They did this by dividing the territory into five groups, later into seven, with a chairman of each division. They reported each month the calls made on sick and new families in their district, and if need arose reported the need and any matter that should have the pastor's attention. Some of these new families came into the church, and the names of later members of the families are still on the church roll.

The Association promoted the material welfare of the church by raising money to meet its needs. For many years they raised from \$300 to \$400 each year by serving the college luncheon on February 22. They held a market every Saturday at which they made on an average of \$20.00 a week. Rummage sales and church suppers were held until they decided to pay a dollar per member each quarter and have no more suppers. They held to this decision even when pastors and bishops sought to have them serve a supper for some project. They raised \$2,000 toward the organ fund and paid for frequent tunings of the organ; \$433 for the church carpet which lasted but two years when they paid \$903 for another one, and \$238 for a chandelier. Cushions cost \$735; dishes and silverware at least \$100, and later more were purchased. A room was furnished at the Aged Peoples' Home and also one at Jane M. Case Hospital. In 1914, the third carpet for the sanctuary was purchased, and in 1937 the mortgage on the church was burned and the Asbury people rejoiced over their freedom from debt. The hymn books, about 200 in the beginning, were bought by members of the church.

The Parsonage

The Pastor lived next door and the church paid \$18 and \$20 for the rent per month. In 1905 the church bought the house where the pastor had been living for \$3,500 and went in debt to Mr. James Wilson, the father of Mrs. Jane Nelson. The ladies helped clean, paint, and paper this place for a parsonage. Since this was too close to the church to give the parsonage family much rest, after about ten years the pastor moved to 292 North Washington Street,

the present residence of J. W. Armstrong. The other home was taken over for the Sunday School, and a kitchen was furnished for the use of church organizations. A larger Sunday School room was built at a cost of \$2,000 and labor donated by the men of the church. This large room became their Sunday School class room, and the class was taught by Professor George Higley, Dr. T. G. Duvall, and the Reverend Austin Philpott for many years. The room has also served as a dining room for church functions.

A bronze tablet in the present parsonage at 70 West Lincoln Avenue states that "the ground on which this building stands was a gift to Asbury Church for a parsonage in memory of Samuel J. and Margaret E. Harrison, 1919." The present parsonage was purchased in the year 1919 at a cost of \$3,000 by subscriptions from the membership.

The house, which had been rented and not too well cared for, needed many repairs. The Woman's Association at once set aside \$500.00 to begin repairs. They made the curtains for the entire house since the windows were so long that they thought no pastor's wife would have such long curtains. They bought window shades and moved the old ones to the Sunday School rooms. A furnace, paint and paper, replacing and refinishing of floors; linoleum, sinks and stove, carpet for the upstairs hall, dining room rug - all these were supplied by the Woman's Association. At two other times furnaces have been purchased, and this past year a new oil furnace was installed.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service

In 1939, after the union of many of the divisions of the Methodist Church, it was thought best, indeed almost a necessity to unite the women's organizations. This was accomplished after much discussion and planning and the Woman's Society of Christian Service became the official organ of the united Methodist Church. It was the duty of this organization to carry on the work of the Woman's Association with its practical and spiritual emphasis, caring for the raising of funds for the local church, leading in the teaching and inspiration of the members; the work of the Foreign Missionary Society which has been to care for the "needs of women and children in other lands", and the work of the Home Society with and for the Homes and Schools in the United States and its territories. Asbury organized its new society in September of 1940 with 70 charter members. The Reverend Ralph Taylor Alton was the pastor when the charter was granted.

The women then made repeated efforts to enroll all the women members of the church as members of this new organization. The entire group planned to meet once a month for a devotional and informative program and business session. Then each circle, or smaller group, met for a study and social meeting at the home of a member. (There are now five circles). Each circle has a chairman and pays dues and helps raise at least \$150.00 per year which is paid to the local organization which in turn contributes this to the district organization. Of this, over \$690.00 goes to Missions, and smaller amounts to other needs.

The Society cares for the parsonage interior, kitchen furnishings, and formerly, the parish house. More than \$5000.00 has been given for the new educational building, both for the building itself and the furnishings therein. The officers of the organization and the circle leaders compose the executive committee of the Society. Since there is now no duplication of activities nor the competition of the various groups, the present Woman's Society in Christian Service is an improvement over formed divided societies.

Asbury's Conference Relations

When Asbury was first organized as a church it, with William Street Church, was a member of the West Ohio Conference in the Delaware District. In 1911 the North and East Ohio Conference were united and Asbury Church became a member of the united conference, and, with Grace Church, a member of the Mansfield District. The first session of this united conference was in September of 1912.

The Budget in the Years 1899 - 1900

Statistics in themselves are not too interesting to most people, yet a comparison of expenses fifty years ago with those of today is worth noting. The budget for 1899 was \$2,086.00. The salary of the Pastor was \$1,100.00; the Presiding Elder, \$100.00; the Organist, \$156.00; Janitor, \$170.00; Parsonage rent, \$216.00; Gas, \$100.00; Coal, \$60.00.

Mrs. Della Duvall was the soloist and received one dollar per Sunday. Mr. Homer Rodeheaver, a student, sang sometimes and was paid 75 cents. (From this start, perhaps, he continued singing to become the widely known gospel singer with Billy Sunday). The student who pumped the organ received 50 cents if he pumped for both services, only 25 cents for one service.

The Conference Treasurer of the North East Ohio, Mansfield District, vouchers show that the church paid in the year 1919, \$5,014.00 and a gift to Ohio Wesleyan of \$90.00.

In the years 1943 - 1951, the current expenses have been \$87,711.94. Of this World Service has been \$17,076.21. The total giving for these years was \$104,788.15; with an average for the past nine years of \$11,643.12. This does not include any gifts to the Building Fund.

Trustees' Records - 1947 - 1950

The records of these years show some of the difficulties faced by the church trustees. Asbury had a new furnace with stokers; which was to warm the church and prevent smoke. This was not a success so repairs at a cost of \$600 and later \$500 were made. Still - no heat and much smoke! The trustees repaired the Parish House furnace and purchased a gas furnace at a cost of \$2,650.

That problem was solved - but now the roof leaked. Where the spouting was stopped up, water ran inside the building and under into the basement. Ditches were opened up on both sides of the building, and the water was detoured into the storm sewers instead of making its way to the basement. These tasks were accomplished by each trustee being responsible for some task which was a headache to him, but brought results. They were compelled to use \$2000.00 saved for the building fund or close the year with a deficit.

When the tower needed repairs in 1950, the project was combined with the building of the new vestibule and steps. This served to free the church from the threat of termites and to make a warm welcoming vestibule with safe steps and hand railings. New doors, paint, light fixtures, and attractive hardware made a cheerful entrance to the church. The cost, \$6,509.76, was met by money saved through the years for such a need.

For many years Mrs. Cliff Sears of Pasadena, California, has provided flowers at Easter in memory of her husband and his parents, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Baker, one-time members of Asbury Church.

The Bell Class gave and planted shrubbery on the lawn. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Riddle gave the bulletin board on the east lawn of the church in memory of their son who was killed in the Second World War. (Ninety-six Asbury boys served in World War II.)

The Woman's Society gave as their most recent gift (1952), a set of dishes at a cost of \$552.00. Each dish has on it the name "Asbury" to serve as a reminder that if it is outside the new kitchen or dining room - it is away from home.

A number of families of Asbury gave a 1951 Christmas present of chimes which ring out hymns from the tower to cheer and comfort those who come to church and those who cannot worship with the congregation.

The grand piano in the sanctuary was the gift of Professor T. G. Duvall (1952). It had belonged to Mrs. Duvall who for many years was soloist and director of the Asbury choir.

The New Educational Building of Asbury

It had long been apparent that the educational and recreational facilities of Asbury were inadequate to provide the services which the church should be rendering its members. That had become a matter of increasing concern as the northwest section of Delaware expanded in size and became the part of town most attractive to new inhabitants and home builders. It was especially unfortunate that Asbury should be handicapped in its facilities for Sunday School work when it was the church most strategically situated in the midst of a growing community. As a result of these circumstances, a general feeling that the church must increase its usefulness by the improvement of the plant itself finally took definite form during the winter of 1949-50 when forward-looking members decided that a new building had become absolutely necessary. Mr. Dalton Harter, president of the Board of Trustees, was the moving force that brought the matter to a focus, and under his leadership a meeting was held at which the widespread approval of the new enterprise was indicated by the vote which called for starting to plan for a new building. Later the Official Board and the Trustees authorized this action, and the long-awaited improvement ceased to be only a dream.

Dr. William Manuel was elected chairman of the building committee, Mrs. Clyde Beougher, secretary, and Mr. Ellis Gallant, Sr., treasurer. To these three, Asbury owes gratitude for their devoted efforts. On November 1, 1949, a financial drive was begun under the leadership of the Reverend Alton Lowe from the Philadelphia Methodist office. Beginning with a sum started several years previously by Mr. Clifford McFarland, there were 347 pledges made and a total sum of \$41,457 pledged for a new building. In May, 1950, the firm of Petit, Oman, Meinhardt, and Cleland, of Columbus, were selected as architects for the building. In the following months

several plans were prepared and finally a two-story edifice with nine rooms, connected with the main church building by a court-way was deemed the best for our purposes.

The Woman's Society pledged and paid \$3,000 during the first campaign for funds, and contributed \$1,500.00 for furnishings. To the second campaign they pledged \$1500. The new building was designed to give maximum service to the women's activities of the church, including a large lounge, a banquet room, and a well-equipped kitchen, and a smaller kitchenette off the lounge. However, of primary importance in all the planning was the needs of the children. A crib room, a nursery, primary, kindergarten, and a junior room for the Sunday School groups are on the first floor - with the recreation room on the second floor.

In the late spring of 1952, it was necessary to supplement the funds raised during the successful first drive by a second campaign. Under the leadership of one of our members, Dr. Vant Kebeker, pledges amounting to \$13,849.00 were received - raising the total to more than \$55,000 for the new addition to the church.

In July, 1952, the Trustees met to sign the contract for the construction of an \$80,000 building. Those present at this meeting included Trustees Myron Dixon, Ralph Burns, Don DeVault, James McCoy, and Ellis Gallant, Jr., Mr. Cleland, representing the architectural firm, and Mr. George P. Reibel, of Columbus, the contractor. Judge Paul Barrett acted as legal advisor. The contractor, Mr. Reibel, was authorized to proceed at once with construction.

Sunday, July 20, 1952, ground-breaking ceremonies were held following the regular morning service. Participating in these ceremonies were the pastor, Reverend Glen M. Warner, Dr. Rollin Walker, the Trustees, and the church choir. The children attending Sunday School that morning had the "front row" seats for the ceremony which was followed by a pleasant social hour.

It was particularly significant that to Dr. Walker went the privilege of turning the first spadeful of earth, since of the 95 charter members of Asbury, he was one of the two still living in Delaware, the other being Miss Rollo Chubb. Both of these life-long members manifested a keen interest in this new project and its completion. Dr. Walker's dedication to the welfare and usefulness of the church has been one of its greatest sources of strength throughout its entire history.

During the summer months following, work progressed satisfactorily with the trustees alert to every saving, and yet anxious to give Asbury the building it needed for its young people. This new addition represented the desires and efforts of all Asbury members and when it was completed in March, 1953, it stood as a symbol of the work and will of the entire congregation, united in the dream of increasing service to our community. The total cost was about \$85,000 - with only an indebtedness of \$25,000 in the form of a loan from the Methodist Board of Education. Some have already made pledges to pay off this loan.

April 12, after the Sunday morning service, the consecration of the new building took place. Bishop Hazen G. Werner had given the morning sermon, and together with Reverend Sumner LaFollette, Reverend Warner, Mr. B. E. Cartmell, and Mr. William Manual, participated in the dedication services held in the lounge of the new building. An appropriate ceremony had been planned by Miss Helen Fretts and Mr. William Bigelow, supplemented by choir music and a solo by Mr. Cullen Maiden.

Thus, nine months after Dr. Walker had turned the first spadeful of earth, the building was completed and dedicated to the Christian service of our community by the people of Asbury Church.

"... it is right and proper that buildings erected for service in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ should be formally and devoutly set apart for their special uses. As the consecration of this building is in vain without the solemn consecration of those whose gifts and labors it represents, let us now give ourselves anew to the service of God; our souls, that they may be renewed after the image of Christ; our bodies, that they may be fit temples for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; and our labors and business, that they may be according to God's Holy will, and that their fruit may tend to the glory of His name and the advancement of His Kingdom. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we consecrate this building to the worship and service of God."



THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

Throughout the years the church has always been
A pointing finger on the toilworn hand
That spaced the villages across the green
Of hills and valleys. Every little band
In barn or home, in orchard or in wood,
Has watched a prayer become their own church spire.
These folks have seen the earth on which they stood
Flower into columns, and the lovely fire
Of stained glass windows, watched one candle flame
Increase a thousand fold, heard one voice free
A flood of sound to glorify God's name
In tier on tier of chorused melody.
Today we love these walls because they hold
As much of God as we can comprehend,
Because their strength and quietude enfold
Our hearts to keep the altar flame alight,
The slender spirit forever tall with prayer.
In times these walls we love will wear away,
And we who build them cannot always stay
To build anew, but others will hold high
Our torch, and keep a cross against the sky.

- Dorothy P. Albaugh.



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History of Asbury United Methodist Church Delaware, Ohio

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Indianapolis, IN, 46241

for
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P. O. Box 1126
Delaware, Ohio, 43015-1126

1989

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